agencies including customs. The details of shahtoosh shawls seized during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Seizures
1998	65 pieces
1999	152 pieces
2000-till date	63 pieces

Investigation into Zoo tragedy at Bhubaneshwar

1440. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Chief Minister has urged the Union Government to set up a team of experts to investigate the mysterious deaths of 12 Royal Bengal tigers in the Nandankanan Zoological Park at Bhubaneshwar;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted into the circumstances in which large number of tigures died; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cause of death of tigers in Nandankanan is the disease called Trypanosomiasis which is caused by a protozoa called Trypanosome. The reasons which might have led to flare up of the disease ranged from over-crowding of animals in the enclosures ingress of livestock into the zoo because the breaches in the boundary wall, non-repair of fencing of White Tiger Safari that was damaged by the cyclone, unhygienic method of breeding, poor drainage and increased vector and loads due to bushes and shrubs in the vicinity of the enclosures and stress among the tigers.